

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8078

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 18257

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, RP

SUBJ: SOVIET RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES

REF: MANILA 16953

1. SUMMARY. MOSCOW IS PREPARED TO GO AHEAD WITH FULL NORMALIZATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH MANILA, BUT THE TIMING IS UP TO THE FILIPPINOS, ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET MFA DESK OFFICER FOR THE PHILIPPINES. A MARCOS VISIT TO MOSCOW IS LIKELY IN "THE SUMMER," HE SAID, BUT HE DID NOT INDICATE WHETHER NORMALIZATION WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT SUCH A VISIT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF CALLED ON VALERIY MALYGIN, DESK OFFICER FOR THE PHILIPPINES, ON DECEMBER 19 TO DISCUSS CURRENT RE-
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LATIONS, AND SPECIFICALLY THE QUESTION OF THE ESTABLISH-

MENT OF SOVIET-PHILIPPINE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. MALYGIN SAID THAT THE QUESTION WAS SIMPLY ONE OF TIMING, AND THAT THE TIMING WAS UP TO MANILA. "WE HAVE NO ARGUMENTS BETWEEN US," HE SAID, AND INDICATED THAT THE DECLARATION HAD ALREADY BEEN WORKED OUT. "WE HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT," HE SAID, BUT PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW WHETHER THE FORMALITIES WOULD BE RESOLVED VERY SOON OR NOT UNTIL LATER IN THE YEAR.

3. ON A POSSIBLE MOSCOW VISIT BY PRESIDENT MARCOS, HE SAID THAT ONE WAS LIKELY IN "THE SUMMER." HE SAID THAT WHEN MARCOS HAD PROPOSED TO COME THIS PAST SUMMER, HTE TIME HAD BEEN TOO SHORT "TO RECEIVEE HIM AT AN APPROPRIATE LEVEL." LOWER LEVEL CONTACTS CONTINUE, SAID MALYGIN, BUT A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE, WHETHER IN TRADE OR CULTURAL EXCHANGES, WHOULD HAVE TO AWAIT THE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

4. MALYGIN WOULD NOT BE DRAWN ON SOVIET CONCERN OVER PEKING'S RELATIONS WITH MANILA OR THE FACT THAT MARCOS CHOSE TO GO THERE FIRST. "IT IS NORMAL FOR COUNTRIES TO HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS," HE SAID BLANDLY, ESPECIALLY WITH ITS NEAR NEIGHBORS. THE PREVIOUS SITUATION WAS ADNORMAL. FURTHERMORE, THERE ARE MANY ETHNIC CHINESE IN THE PHILIPPINES, SO RELATIONS WITH CHINA ARE IMPORTANT, HE CONTINUED. SOVIET POLICY, IN ANY CASE, IS NOT BASED ON ANOTHER COUNTRY'S RELATIONS WITH CHINA, "SO LONG AS THOSE RELATIONS ARE NOT DIRECTED AGAINST THIRD COUNTRIES," HE CONCLUDED.
STOESSEL

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